the War for its decisive importance in the course of the world conflict—was in the main a *Surprise* battle of manoeuvre and strategy of mobile armies> depending for its issue on the element of surprise. Who was responsible for the Battle of the Marne ? When the victor of the Marne is called up for judgment and recompense, there will be the same multitudinous response as Byron predicted when it is the turn of Junius to be summoned to the Bar :—

" The moment that you had pronounced him one.
Presto ! his face changed, and he was another ;
And when that change was hardly well put on.
It varied, till I don't think his own mother
(If that he had a mother) would her son
Have known, he shifted so from one to t'other/'

But whoever he was or they were, commentators seem agreed on the factors which determined the issue at the Marne :—

(1) The swing-in of the 6th French Army under Manoury and of Gallieni's Paris Defence Force, against Von Kluck's right flank. Von Kluck was not expecting this attack and was not prepared for it until it was too late.

(2) The weakening of the German forces by the dispatch of two army corps to East Prussia, to counter the unexpected attack by SamsonofFs army—another surprise—and the leaving of two more army corps in Belgium to mask

Antwerp
and guard against an alleged Russian
Army that
was said to be coming to the West
through England.